



Thursday, March 24, 2016

House Budget & Research Office  
(404) 656-5050

House Media Services  
(404) 656-0305

- The House has adjourned 'Sine Die' for the 2016 Legislative Session.

## Today on the Floor

### Conference Committee Reports

#### **HB 205 Drivers' licenses; require driver who refused blood alcohol concentration testing to install and maintain ignition interlock devices on vehicle; provisions**

**Bill Summary:** HB 205 provides an option to Driving Under the Influence (DUI) offenders to apply for an interlock device limited driving permit. Any person who has not been previously convicted or adjudicated delinquent for a violation of the DUI code, within five years of a previous DUI arrest, and whose driver's license is subject to an administrative driver's license suspension may apply for such permit. Moreover, any person who has had an administrative license suspension due to a violation of the DUI code may apply for an interlock device limited driving permit only after serving at least 120 days of said suspension. In addition, the department shall not issue an ignition interlock device limited driving permit to any person: under 21 years of age; not currently licensed to operate a motor vehicle in this state; who currently holds a commercial driver's license; or whose license is subject to a suspension, revocation, or cancellation. No person who has been granted an exemption from the ignition interlock device due to financial hardship shall be eligible for a limited driving permit or any other driving privilege for a period of one year.

An ignition interlock device limited driving permit shall become invalid upon the expiration of one year or upon any earlier reinstatement of the permittee's driver's license. The restrictions regarding places for driving are expanded from a limited driving permit for an interlock device limited driving permit.

A driver's ignition interlock device limited driving permit shall be revoked if: any permittee is convicted of violating any state law relating to the movement of vehicles or driving a motor vehicle in violation of an ignition interlock limited driving permit; has failed to complete a required substance abuse program; or the ignition interlock provider center notifies the court that the device was tampered with, the driver fails to report for monitoring, or the offender tries to drive after drinking.

Any person whose ignition interlock device limited driving permit has been revoked, or who has been refused such permit, may make a request, in writing, for a hearing and shall follow the procedures required by the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act. Any person issued an ignition interlock device limited driving permit who operates a vehicle in violation of such permit, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Moreover, the commissioner shall submit an annual report to the House and Senate detailing the amount of interlock device limited driving permits issued.

Any person issued an ignition interlock device limited driving permit, within 10 days of such issuance, shall have a certified ignition interlock device installed in any motor vehicle to be driven by such person and shall not drive any motor vehicle until such equipment is installed. In addition, an ignition interlock provider shall notify the Department of Driver Services for any unsatisfactory reports by such driver or if such driver requests the provider to remove the ignition interlock device at any time during the ignition interlock device limited driving permit period.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tom Rice (95th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Conference Committee Reports:** *(Adoption of the conference committee report represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 727 Fireworks; certain further regulations by counties and municipal corporations; provide**

**Bill Summary:** HB 727 regulates where and when fireworks can be exploded. It is unlawful to explode fireworks within five yards of an overhead obstruction, across or into a public road. Fireworks may not be used in close proximity to electric plants, wastewater treatment plants, jails, prisons, hospitals, and nursing homes. It is unlawful to explode fireworks at public gatherings where the local fire department or the state fire marshal determines that such conduct would be unreasonable. Also, it is unlawful and punishable as a misdemeanor to explode fireworks while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The governor or the director of the Environmental Protection Division may issue a declaration to prohibit the use of fireworks for a specific duration. The bill extends the times which fireworks may be exploded on January 1, July 3, July 4, and December 31. Moreover, the bill allows for local noise ordinances to govern when fireworks are otherwise permitted to be exploded. HB 727 also allows for temporary fireworks stands for the benefit of non-profits, 501(c)(3) corporations.

The bill also updates the code relating to fire protection and safety relating to issuance of certificates, definitions, functions and powers of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council and qualifications of firefighters.

**Authored By:** Rep. Paul Battles (15th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Conference Committee Reports:** *(Adoption of the conference committee report represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 876 Animals; license and surety requirements of livestock dealers and market operators; update**

**Bill Summary:** HB 876 revises Code sections regarding livestock dealers and auctions with updated language. The legislation also provides for the update of license and surety requirements of livestock dealers and livestock market operators to allow the Georgia Department of Agriculture to charge an annual fee of \$25 for livestock dealers and livestock order buyers, as well as a triennial fee for livestock markets based on the surety required but shall not exceed \$200. The bill maintains current penalties and exemptions for who must register as a dealer. Georgia 4-H Clubs and Georgia Future Farmers of America chapters shall not be required to procure surety. The legislation, also provides for livestock activities to be included in the statute with equine activities and llama activities with the same civil liabilities and penalties.

**Authored By:** Rep. Clay Pirkle (155th)

**Rule Applied:** Open

**Conference Committee Reports:** *(Adoption of the conference committee report represents final passage of the bill by the House, however the Senate has not yet noted adoption of this conference committee report.)*

**HB 904 Labor and industrial relations; employment security; change certain contribution rates and credits**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 904 revises the repeal dates for the Code sections addressing employers' contributions to the Unemployment Trust Fund and modifies the division of the employer's contribution between the Unemployment Trust Fund and the Administrative Assessment.

Further, HB 904 allows cross-referencing information across state departments to enhance the financial accountability of the Unemployment Trust Fund. The commissioner of the Department of Labor, or his or her duly authorized representative, may submit to the state revenue commissioner the names, earnings and social security numbers of any individuals who are required to report earnings to the department. The state revenue commissioner shall compare the submitted earnings with the income reported by the individuals to verify and report back to the Labor Department that the submitted earnings are equal to, greater than, or less than the amount of income reported by the individual to the Department of Revenue. Furthermore, the Department of Labor may submit to the state revenue commissioner the name of any employer, along with the number of employees they report, during specified time periods. The state revenue commissioner shall compare those records with the number of employees reported by that employer to the Department of Revenue to verify and report back to the Department of Labor that the number of employees reported to the department is equal to, greater than, or less than the number of employees reported to the Department of Revenue.

for state income tax withholding purposes for the specified time period.

**Authored By:** Rep. Brian Strickland (111th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Conference Committee Reports:** (*Adoption of the conference committee report represents final passage of the bill.*)

**SB 64 Juvenile Code, Domestic Relations, and Vital Records; repeal voluntary acknowledgments of legitimation**

**Bill Summary:** SB 64 revises the definition of "legal father" and makes grammatical corrections to provide consistency within the Juvenile Code. The administrative legitimation as a means of defining legal father is removed. The bill also clarifies the language whereby only a biological father may legitimate his child and also what is required in that petition. The bill adds a provision allowing the court to ensure that the petitioning alleged biological father is, in fact, the biological father and may order genetic testing. The Code is further refined so that the hospital in which a child is born must provide paternity acknowledgement forms prior to the birth of the child rather than after. The bill adds a requirement that the hospital provide the mother and the alleged father with the opportunity to execute a voluntary acknowledgement of paternity within 30 days of birth. Acknowledgement of paternity shall constitute a legal determination of paternity if sworn to and signed in the presence of a notary public or other witness.

**Authored By:** Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Conference Committee Reports:** (*Adoption of the conference committee report represents final passage of the bill.*)

**SB 199 Elections; provide for a definition; prohibit certain activities within close proximity to polling places**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 199 establishes a definition for "campaign material" and prevents it from being distributed or displayed within the area of a voting precinct restricted from campaigning activities. Campaign material is defined as any newspaper, booklet, pamphlet, card, sign, paraphernalia, or any other written or printed matter referring to a candidate whose name appears on the ballot in a primary or election; a referendum which appears on the ballot in a primary or election, or a political party or body which has a nominee or nominees on the ballot in a primary or election.

SB 199 provides for the reopening of qualifications in municipal elections if someone fails to qualify during the regular qualifying period. Under current law, it would require the calling of a special election. It allows local governments, by local act of the General Assembly, to establish residency requirements for qualification purposes of local elections and it further provides that if the required second Saturday early voting date falls on a holiday, the voting will occur on the following Saturday.

Finally, SB 199 provides that state employees who testify before committees of the General Assembly are not to be considered lobbyists.

**Authored By:** Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Conference Committee Reports:** (*Adoption of the conference committee report represents final passage of the bill.*)

**SB 258 Ad Valorem Tax; provide the assessed value of property shall not be increased beyond the initial assessment value**

**Bill Summary:** SB 258 amends current law whereby a person can lock in a property tax assessment for three years by appealing the tax assessment. This legislation provides that the assessed value following such appeal can be decreased, but not increased. It also provides language to facilitate written agreements between taxpayers and tax assessment boards to resolve assessment issues.

This legislation also provides for tax credits for contributions to rural "health care organizations," defined as health organizations located in rural counties, participating in both Medicaid and Medicare, providing health care to primarily indigent patients, and receiving at least 10 percent of their gross net revenues from the treatment of indigent patients. Aggregate tax credits are capped at \$100 million per year.

In the case of a single individual or head of household, a rural health care organization tax credit shall be for 80 percent of the actual amount expended or \$2,500 per year, whichever is less. In the case of a married couple filing a joint return, the credit shall be for 90 percent of the actual amount expended or \$5,000 per year, whichever is less. In the case of a corporation, the credit shall not exceed 90 percent of the amount expended or 75 percent of the corporation's income tax liability, whichever is less. The tax credit cannot exceed a taxpayer's income tax liability. Credits can carry forward, but cannot be applied retroactively.

This legislation places the tax credit program under the Department of Community Health, with legislative oversight facilitated by reporting requirements designed to determine the effectiveness of the credit program. To apply for a rural health care organization tax credit, the donor must notify the Department of Community Health of the total amount in contributions, at which point the department will preapprove the donation within 30 days. The donation must then be made by the donor within 60 days of receiving preapproval from the department.

**Authored By:** Sen. Fran Millar (40th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Conference Committee Reports:** *(Adoption of the conference committee report represents final passage of the bill.)*

## Motions to Recede

### **HB 736 Special license plates; marine habitat conservation; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 736 establishes a special license plate promoting marine habitat conservation. The funds raised by the sale of this license plate shall be disbursed to the Coastal Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources to supplement marine habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement projects undertaken to increase the abundance of marine fish and invertebrate species.

It also contains provisions creating special license plates for female veterans, the Omega Si Phi Fraternity, Hampton University, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., a special license plate to support the law enforcement division of the Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Pet Foundation.

Finally, HB 736 provides that a spouse of a veteran is eligible for a free 'veterans' license plate.

**Authored By:** Rep. Alex Atwood (179th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Recede:** *(A motion to recede represents final passage of the bill.)*

## Motions to Agree

### **HB 51 Taxes; amount payable at redemption of property; change provisions**

Bill Summary: Current law requires the purchaser of a tax deed to join the applicable property owners' association and make payments to the association. HB 51 applies to tax sales made after July 1, 2015, and provides that if the property is redeemed by the original owner, the redemption price paid to the tax sale purchaser must include any payments made by the tax sale purchaser to the property owners' association.

In counties designated as less developed areas, the state sales and use tax levied and imposed pursuant to Code Section 48-8-30 on the retail purchase or retail sale of a new manufactured single-family structure shall be at the applicable state and local option tax rate on an amount equal to 70 percent of the retailer's invoice amount. This subsection shall apply regardless of whether the Certificate of Permanent Location has been filed. There is a sunset provision that repeals these provisions on June 30, 2019.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tommy Benton (31st)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 54 Tuition grants; children of officers killed in line of duty who attend University System institutions and meet certain requirements; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 54 allows the Department of Revenue to establish a contribution method in which Georgia residents can deem part of their tax refund to provide postsecondary education financial assistance for children of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, paramedics, prison guard, emergency medical technician, or Highway Emergency Response Operator who was killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.

**Authored By:** Rep. Keisha Waites (60th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 59 State tort claims; waiver of sovereign immunity for declaratory judgment or injunctive relief; provide**

Bill Summary: According to a 2014 Georgia Supreme Court ruling the defense of sovereign immunity is within the legislature's discretion to waive, if it is so inclined, to provide Georgians with a means to combat illegal acts by the state and/or agents of the state. HB 59 waives the state's defense of sovereign immunity as to any action brought in the courts of this state by an aggrieved person seeking declaratory judgment or injunctive relief.

**Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard (51st) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)*

**HB 212 Pain management clinics; health care professionals who must be on-site for the clinics to provide medical treatment or services; revise a provision**

Bill Summary: HB 212 requires a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse to be on-site at a pain management clinic to dispense a controlled substance. Additionally, this bill removes the administration of anesthesia from the definition of "dispensing" for the purposes of this article.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tom Weldon (3rd) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)*

**HB 216 Occupational diseases; define certain terms; provisions**

Bill Summary: House Bill 216 establishes that cancer will be covered by a fire fighter's worker's compensation benefit if it is demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence that the cancer was caused by the circumstances of his employment.

**Authored By:** Rep. Micah Gravley (67th) **Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 362 Student health; licensed health practitioners to prescribe albuterol sulfate for schools; authorize**

Bill Summary: HB 362 amends O.C.G.A 16-13-30.3 by removing phenylpropanolamine from the definition of drug products that contain ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. Under the provisions of this bill, pharmacies must require customers to issue a valid government ID when purchasing a product containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. Additionally, the retail distributor must maintain a record of certain "required information", defined in the bill as the full name and address of the purchaser; the type of government ID; a description of the product purchased; and the date and time of the purchase.

Further, pharmacies must electronically track such sales using a "real-time electronic logging system", defined in the bill as a system that can track required information and generate a stop sale alert to notify a retail distributor that the purchase exceeds the quantity limits (9 grams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine per 30 day period in dosage form; or 3.6 grams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine per day in dosage form). The system will also contain an override function to be utilized in the event that the cashier is in imminent danger if the sale is not made; however, the system will still track any override sales. This system must be approved by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and be

offered free of charge to the state, retail distributors, and law enforcement agencies.

**Authored By:** Rep. Valerie Clark (101st)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)*

#### **HB 364 Real estate transfer tax; change certain provisions**

**Bill Summary:** HB 364 allows the commissioner of the Department of Revenue to review and request an alteration of a county digest and to create an appeals process if a tax assessor disagrees with an alteration.

It also provides that the Department of Revenue shall notify the Department of Community Affairs if there has been a finding of the illegal taxation of property or intangibles. If there is such a finding, the Department of Community Affairs may revoke the county's qualified government status for three years, though the county's qualified government status will not be revoked if the county removes the tax assessor.

This legislation allows the owner of a property that has been illegally taxed under a prior county digest to directly petition the Georgia Tax Tribunal. The bill provides corresponding legal filing requirements to support such an action.

**Authored By:** Rep. David Knight (130th)

**Rule Applied:** Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

#### **HB 408 Excise tax; rooms, lodging and accommodations; clarify application of certain provisions to certain municipalities**

**Bill Summary:** This legislation allows municipalities that were authorized to levy hotel/motel excise taxes to fund the Georgia Dome to use such revenues, which were previously marked for paying bond debts, for tourism product development after the repayment of said bond debts. "Tourism product development" means the expenditure of funds for the creation or expansion of physical attractions which are available and open to the public and which improve destination appeal to visitors, support visitors' experiences, and are used by visitors, including capital costs and operating expenses.

**Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard (51st)

**Rule Applied:** Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

#### **HB 514 South Fulton, City of; Fulton County; incorporate**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 514 creates the city of South Fulton.

**Authored By:** Rep. Roger Bruce (61st)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

#### **HB 547 Estates; taxes and tax liens; change provisions**

**Bill Summary:** HB 547 narrows the scope of the exemption from real property taxes in the year's support provision for the family of a decedent to include only the family's homestead, and exclude any other real property in the estate.

**Authored By:** Rep. Barry Fleming (121st)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

#### **HB 555 Courts; provide reporting of certain statistics regarding juveniles seeking abortions without parental notice; provisions**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 555 requires the clerk of a juvenile court to report the number of petitions granted or denied for an abortion without parental consent to the Administrative Office of the Courts on an annual basis.

**Authored By:** Rep. Joyce Chandler (105th)      **Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** (A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)

**HB 614 Landon Dunson Act; enact**

**Bill Summary:** The 'Landon Dunson Act' authorizes the Department of Education to establish a program for placing video cameras in classrooms which are used for special education services. Video would be retained for no less than three months nor more than 12 months and cover all areas of the classroom to the extent practical.

**Authored By:** Rep. Valencia Stovall (74th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Motions to Agree:** (A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)

**HB 658 DeKalb County; community improvement districts may be created within municipalities; change certain provisions**

**Bill Summary:** A Bill to provide for the creation of one or more community improvement districts in DeKalb County.

**Authored By:** Rep. Billy Mitchell (88th)      **Rule Applied:**  
**Motions to Agree:** (A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)

**HB 659 Education; provide transparency of financial information of local school systems and schools; provisions**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 659 requires school systems to make financial information, other than information specifically confidential by law, available for public access in order to promote greater transparency within public schools.

**Authored By:** Rep. D. C. Belton (112th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Motions to Agree:** (A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)

**HB 736 Special license plates; marine habitat conservation; provide**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 736 establishes a special license plate promoting marine habitat conservation. The funds raised by the sale of this license plate shall be disbursed to the Coastal Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources to supplement marine habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement projects undertaken to increase the abundance of marine fish and invertebrate species.

It also contains provisions creating special license plates for female veterans, the Omega Si Phi Fraternity, Hampton University, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., a special license plate to support the law enforcement division of the Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Pet Foundation.

Finally, HB 736 provides that a spouse of a veteran is eligible for a free 'veterans' license plate.

**Authored By:** Rep. Alex Atwood (179th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** (A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)

**HB 769 Ad valorem tax; certain watercraft held for sale or resale; make permanent an exemption**

**Bill Summary:** This legislation permanently exempts watercraft and all-terrain vehicles held in inventory by a dealer for sale or resale from ad valorem taxation by removing the sunset provision set to expire on December 31, 2019.

**Authored By:** Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th)      **Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** (A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)

**HB 783 Controlled substances; Schedules I and IV; change certain provisions**

**Bill Summary:** HB 783 revises O.C.G.A 16-13-25, relating to Schedule I controlled substances, by adding and removing certain substances from the Code section. Additionally, this bill revises O.C.G.A 16-13-28, relating to Schedule IV substances by adding and removing certain substances from the Code section. Further, multiple new substances are added to O.C.G.A 16-13-71 relating to the definition of a dangerous drug, and a list of restricted dangerous drugs which are deemed by the General Assembly to have no medical use is created.

Additionally, HB 783 makes it illegal for manufacturers to ship low THC oil to individuals registered on the THC oil registry with the Department of Public Health. The bill also expands the definition of "conditions" that make individuals eligible for a THC oil registration card.

**Authored By:** Rep. Bruce Broadrick (4th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 792 Firearms; carrying, possession, and use of electroshock weapons by persons who are students or who are employed at a public institution; authorize**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 792 allows anyone who is 18 years of age or older or currently enrolled in classes at any postsecondary education institution to carry electroshock weapons on campus. The bill requires the use of that weapon to be only in self-defense or the defense of another.

**Authored By:** Rep. Buzz Brockway (102nd)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 798 HOPE; home study students who receive certain scores on standardized college admission tests; provide eligibility**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 798 provides for home study students who receive scores in the 75th percentile or higher nationally on standardized college admissions test to be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. The Zell Miller Scholarship requires a score of at least 1,200 on the combined critical reading and math portions of the SAT or a 26 on the ACT administered prior to March 1, 2016 or the total score of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016 for eligibility. The bill further modifies the requirements for the Zell Miller Scholarship for home study students or graduates from an ineligible high school to require a score in the 93rd percentile or higher on the ACT or SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016 or the total score of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016 for eligibility.

**Authored By:** Rep. Joyce Chandler (105th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 806 Drivers' licenses; expiration of certain licenses and identification cards; provisions**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 806 is the annual "housekeeping" bill for the Department of Driver Services (DDS). It removes the option for a driver's license with a five-year renewal. It creates a two-year statute of limitations for citations that have been adjudicated in a local court and require the suspension of an individual's driving privileges, but the citations have not been processed with DDS.

Further, this bill allows for the use of a motor vehicle of the Department of Public Safety in an off duty job when vested police powers are required as a condition of employment and if the job is approved by the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. Those certified law enforcement officers affected by this legislation include the uniform division, motor carrier compliance, and certified law enforcement. These vehicles are not to be used for political functions. If the commissioner determines that reimbursement is due to the department by the officer, he must make such determination before the job is complete and the officer enters into a written agreement with the department.

Finally, House Bill 806 transfers the Georgia Driver's Education Commission from the Department of Driver Services to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. It also extends the sunset provision from June 30, 2016 until June 30, 2019.



**Authored By:** Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

## **HB 808 Courts; Judicial Qualifications Commission; create**

**Bill Summary:** HB 808 adds new Code section 15-1-12.1 to create a new selection process for the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) as well as provide guidelines on what meetings are subject to public disclosure. HR 1113 is the companion legislation that provides the amendment to the constitution necessitating these general law provisions.

From January 1, 2017, until June 30, 2017, there shall be seven members of the commission which shall be as follows: the Supreme Court of Georgia shall select two members who shall be judges of any court of record; the President of the Senate shall select two members with one member selected from a list of at least ten nominees submitted by the board of governors of the State Bar of Georgia who are members of the State Bar of Georgia who shall have been an active status member of the State Bar of Georgia for at least ten years and shall be a registered voter of this state, provided, however, that if a nominee is not selected from such list, the board of governors shall submit another slate of ten nominees for the President of the Senate to select from and the other member shall be not be a member of the State Bar of Georgia, but is a registered voter of this state; the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall select two members in the same manner as the President of the Senate as discussed above; and the Governor shall select one member who shall be a member of the State Bar of Georgia with at least ten years active status and is a registered voter of this State, and that member shall serve as chairperson of the JQC.

From July 1, 2017, through December 31, 2020 the members of the JQC shall be composed in the same manner as set forth above.

On and after January 1, 2021, the members of the JQC shall serve for a term of three years and until their successors are appointed. The members of the JQC shall be composed in the same manner as set forth above.

Any list of nominees required by this Code section shall be submitted to the Senate no later than the third Monday in January. Any member appointed to the commission shall serve until the Senate confirms such nominee and if an individual's name is not submitted by such deadline, he or she shall not be eligible for appointment.

The JQC is empowered to adopt rules and procedures for its own governance where not otherwise provided by the Constitution; provided, however, such rules and procedures shall:

- (1) Not allow an individual member to initiate an investigation without presenting such a proposal to investigate to the other members of the commission at a commission meeting; and
- (2) Provide that all hearings in connection with a complaint filed by the commission shall be open to the public.

A JQC member shall be subject to removal from the commission by an affirmative vote of six members of the commission, with the member who is subject to removal being disqualified from such vote.

No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms, except for those initial appointments from January 1, 2017, until June 30, 2017, they may serve for three consecutive terms as a member of the commission.

Unless otherwise waived by the judge involved, all papers filed with and proceedings before the commission, including any investigation that the commission may undertake, shall be confidential, and no person shall disclose information obtained from commission proceedings or papers filed with or by the commission, except as otherwise provided.

Information submitted to the commission or its staff, and testimony given in any proceeding before

the commission, that is not in a hearing in connection with a complaint filed by the commission shall be absolutely privileged, and shall not serve as the basis of any civil action.

If, after an investigation is completed, the commission concludes that a letter of caution is appropriate, then the commission shall issue a letter of caution to the judge in lieu of any further proceeding in the matter. The issuance of a letter of caution shall be confidential, unless otherwise waived by the judge involved.

Upon issuance of a public reprimand, censure, suspension, retirement, or removal by the Supreme Court, the notice and statement of charges filed by the commission along with the answer and all other pleadings, including the recommendation of the commission to the Supreme Court and the record filed in support of such recommendation, shall no longer be confidential.

The findings and records of the commission during an open meeting shall not be exempt from open records requests.

**Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard (51st)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)*

### **HB 811 Banking and finance; update, modernize, and streamline numerous Code sections; revise provisions**

Bill Summary: HB 811 extensively amends Title 7, relating to banking and finance, to update, modernize, and streamline numerous Code sections to provide for efficient regulation of banks, trust companies, credit unions, merchant acquirer limited purpose banks, and the mortgage lending industry.

Specifically, the bill revises the powers and duties of the Department of Banking and Finance, as well as its commissioner, deputy commissioners and examiners. Before entering office, the commissioner of the Department of Banking and finance will still take the oath of office before the governor or a justice of the supreme court, but all other deputies and examiners may take the oath before the commissioner. Bond surety duties of the commissioner and deputy commissioners are removed. Collection of amounts owed through the Attorney General's office will no longer be limited to outstanding fees.

Financial institutions will not be required to publish an annual abstract summary of two of its reports unless requested to do so by the department.

Virtual currency is defined and includes digital representation of monetary value that does not have legal tender status and requires fair practice standards by those who deal with virtual currency.

The department shall provide rules for when and what type of insurance banks must obtain upon cancellation of deposit insurance, rather than the mandatory six-month period.

In order to comply with other parts of the Code, federal law and federal court decisions, the bill updates and eliminates certain provisions, such as: substituting the term "financial institution" for bank, and substituting specific provisions in favor of rules that are issued by certain federal public bodies for out-of-state banks. Georgia banks are allowed to establish branches in other states without obtaining permission by Georgia law or regulation.

The bill provides new provisions to remove a member of a credit union's board of directors, and requires meeting times to be set by bylaws, as well as other like provisions and principles on corporations regarding general fair dealings, mergers, consolidation, and criminal proceedings.

Finally, the bill deletes all appearances of and references to the term "building and loan associations."

**Authored By:** Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)*

**HB 862 Ad valorem tax; homestead exemption; clarify definition of disabled veteran**

Bill Summary: This legislation allows eligible disabled veterans to qualify for the homestead exemption by meeting either, rather than both, of the standards required by law, which are: permanent loss of one or both feet, hands, or sight in one or both eyes; or honorably discharged and 100 percent disabled or compensated at the 100 percent level as unemployable. The bill also provides that eligible veterans shall be issued a free motor vehicle license plate, and that the vehicle on which said license plate is affixed shall be exempted from all ad valorem taxes for state, county, municipal, and school purposes. An eligible disabled veteran must be a citizen and resident of Georgia with a service-related disability.

**Authored By:** Rep. David Knight (130th)      **Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 866 Insurance; multiple employer self-insured health plans; exempt from premium taxes**

Bill Summary: House Bill 866 exempts multiple employer self-insured health plans from premium taxes.

**Authored By:** Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 874 Courts; ability to prosecute street gang terrorism; improve**

Bill Summary: HB 874 changes access to evidence of gang activity and adjusts criminal rules of evidence for trials involving gang activity and makes other changes to improve the ability to prosecute street gang terrorism.

The bill changes the terroristic threat statute by creating a felony for threats which suggest the death of the threatened individual. Any individual convicted of such a threat would be guilty of a felony. When the intent of a terroristic threat is for the purpose to retaliate or intimidate a witness or other court officials, the punishment is a felony punished with a fine of not less than \$50,000 and imprisonment for not less than 5 nor more than 20 years.

HB 874 enables evidence of gang activity, including witness testimony, to be admitted into trial and considered at trial whenever it is relevant. Use of such evidence must be disclosed to the defendant 10 days prior to trial. The bill prohibits the exclusion of convictions for gang activity, including juvenile convictions, under the hearsay rules.

HB 874 increases criminal penalties for gang involvement where any person convicted of participation in gang related activities are guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment from five to 20 years or a fine of \$10,000 to \$100,000, or both. Individuals who are convicted of participation in gang activities while in possession of telecommunication devices while incarcerated are guilty of a felony and subjected to mandatory imprisonment of two but no more than 20 years, which is to be served consecutively to any other sentence imposed. In addition, no portion of the mandatory minimum sentence can be suspended, probated, or withheld.

**Authored By:** Rep. Albert Reeves (34th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 879 Elementary and secondary education; seal of biliteracy for high school graduates with a high level of proficiency in one or more foreign languages in addition to English; provide**

Bill Summary: HB 879 establishes the "Georgia Seal of Biliteracy" to recognize high school graduates who attain a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing one or more languages in addition to English. The bill also provides criteria for proving biliteracy and record-keeping requirements for school systems participating in the program. The Department of Education will prepare and deliver an appropriate insignia to participating local school systems to be affixed to

the diploma or transcript of the pupil indicating the pupil earned the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tom Taylor (79th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 883 Insurance; insurers rehabilitation and liquidation; change certain provisions**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 883 updates provisions on insurer rehabilitation and liquidations in accordance with National Association of Insurance Commissioners' (NAIC) accreditation standards and changes claims procedures for ancillary receiverships.

Further, it updates Georgia's Principal Based Reserve standard in order to maintain its accreditation with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' requirements.

**Authored By:** Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 884 Insurance; company action level event to include a health organization with certain total adjusted capital levels; revise definition**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 884 revises the definition of "company action level event" to include a health organization with certain total adjusted capital levels and applies risk-based capital computations of a company action level event to health organizations, primarily health insurer and health plans.

Further, House Bill 884 eliminates the Code requirement for each foreign and alien insurer to deposit a specific amount (not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$25,000) for securities eligible for capital investment and allows the amount to be determined by the commissioner which aligns with a National Association of Insurance Commissioners' (NAIC) accreditation requirement.

**Authored By:** Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 885 Health; certain counties to create a county board of health and wellness; repeal statute**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 885 repeals Code Section 31-3-2.1, which relates to the option for certain counties to create a board of health and wellness by ordinance. Any affected county board of health will fall under the jurisdiction of the state system.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jan Jones (47th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)*

**HB 905 Courts; child abuse; change provisions**

**Bill Summary:** HB 905 provides criminal immunity for an individual who is in good faith possession of child pornography for the purpose of promptly reporting such violation to law enforcement or mandatory reporters.

The bill changes the definition for sexual abuse to now exclude consensual relationships between adults and children who are not more than four years apart in age. 'Child Advocacy Center' is defined to include only entities operated for investigating reported child abuse and partnered with one of the enumerated governmental entities.

Moreover, the Code section requiring the establishment of local child abuse protocol committees is amended to require representatives from certain local law enforcement agencies and other entities concerned with public health. HB 905 allows multi-county judicial circuits to determine whether each county in the circuit should establish a protocol committee. Each committee must file an updated protocol with the Department of Family and Children's Services each September.

HB 905 also strikes provisions requiring county prosecuting offices to notify the division of convictions for child abuse offenses. HB 905 also removes the actions required by the division which follow such a notifications, including the addition of the individual to the registry and the procedural recourse for removing a person's name from such a list.

In addition, the bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS), in conjunction with other affected agencies and representatives of child welfare agencies, to establish a child welfare agency public scorecard to score child welfare agencies. This scorecard will be published in a single location on a website for public review. The score must be posted within 30 days of the completion of an inspection. The scores will be based on an established published formula with weight appropriately given for each agency's compliance or noncompliance with all applicable rules and policies. DHS must give agencies an advanced written notice of their score before the score is posted.

Finally, under the provision of this bill, DHS is to perform an annual inspection of all child welfare agencies is performed by all affected agencies in a singular coordinated manner. Annual inspections are conducted to ensure compliance with contract and licensure requirements.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 926 Pharmacists and pharmacies; regulation of certain facilities and entities involved in the wholesale, manufacture, and distribution of drugs; provide**

Bill Summary: HB 926 requires a "third-party logistics provider", defined in the bill as an entity that provides or coordinates warehousing, distribution, or other services on behalf of a manufacturer but does not take title to a drug or have general responsibility to direct the sale or other disposition of the drug, to be licensed by the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy (the "board"). This bill allows the board to issue temporary licenses in emergency situations that will expire at the end of the month following the third board meeting conducted after the issuance of such license. Additionally, temporary licenses may also be issued to a service member for a period of six months.

**Authored By:** Rep. Bruce Broadrick (4th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 936 Income tax; wages necessary to qualify for a job tax credit; clarify certain terms**

Bill Summary: This legislation clarifies terms in respect to the wages necessary to qualify for a jobs tax credit. It provides that the average wage of each new job created must be above the average county wage in the county with the lowest average wage. It also provides that a "new full-time employee job" means a newly-created position requiring a minimum of 35 hours per week paying at or above the average wage in the lowest county with the lowest average wage.

HB 936 provides an income tax credit of \$2,500 per parolee per year to employers who hire individuals who have been granted parole within the preceding 12 months. The job must be full-time (more than 30 hours per week), be without a predetermined end date, involve work in the state for a minimum of 40 weeks per taxable year, and be at or above the average wage for the county in which the job is based. The credit cannot exceed the employer's income tax liability or be applied retroactively, and any unused credit can carry forward for three subsequent years. It also contains reporting requirements so that the General Assembly can ascertain the effectiveness of the credit.

**Authored By:** Rep. Brett Harrell (106th)      **Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)*

**HB 937 Sales and use tax; exemption for projects of regional significance; change sunset provision**

Bill Summary: This legislation extends the sunset on the sales and use tax exemption for the construction of a competitive project of regional significance until June 30, 2019, and also extends the excise tax on rental car charges until December 31, 2047.

**Authored By:** Rep. Brett Harrell (106th)**Rule Applied:** Structured**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)***HB 941 Courts; review of incidents involving a peace officer's use of deadly force that results in death or serious bodily injury; provide for procedure**

**Bill Summary:** HB 941 changes the process for pre-trial inquiries and indictments for review of incidents involving the use of deadly force by peace officers which results in death or serious bodily injury. The bill allows an inquiry into use of deadly force by a police officer to be initiated either by vote of eight members of a standing grand jury or by the county district attorney. The bill also enables district attorneys in all counties to empanel a special grand jury for the investigation of these incidents. The proceedings exclude charges for non-serious traffic offenses.

Review by a civil grand jury must begin within one year of the incident but cannot begin until after the law enforcement agency investigating the incident has submitted their investigative report. The civil grand jury may not initiate an investigation if the district attorney has moved to indict the officer. At least 20 days prior to beginning the inquiry, the peace officer involved and the chief executive officer of the officer's agency must receive notice of the proceeding.

During the proceeding, the district attorney is required to advise the grand jury of laws which apply to the use of deadly force, including: justification for the use of force, use of force in the defense of others, and the statutory authorization for the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers to effect an arrest.

All proceedings shall be recorded by a court reporter provided by the county. In the event that the grand jury elects not to recommend further action, the grand jury must prepare a report containing a summary of the evidence considered and the reasoning and findings of the grand jury. The transcript of the proceeding, the presented evidence, and the grand jury report will be made available to the public by the district attorney within six months or by the end of the next term of the court, whichever is later. Portions of the report or evidence that are subject to statutory privilege may be redacted only on motion by the district attorney and approval of a superior court judge.

For criminal grand jury proceedings, a court reporter is required who will be appointed by the district attorney and paid for by the county. The transcript will be furnished to the district attorney, who will retain recordings, notes, and the transcript of the recording. For testimony of a witness who has been granted immunity, the original transcript will be filed with the court clerk under seal and a copy will be given to the district attorney.

At least 20 days prior to beginning the indictment, the peace officer involved and the CEO of the officer's agency must receive, in writing, a copy of the indictment, notice of the grand jury hearing, as well as the time and location of the hearing. The officer must also be notified of his right to testify before the grand jury after the district attorney has presented the case and that their testimony will be subject to cross examination and/or rebuttal witnesses.

The district attorney must inform the grand jury of the officer's right to testify or refuse testimony and the inapplicability of that decision to their decision. During the proceeding, the district attorney is required to advise the grand jury of laws which apply to the use of deadly force, including: justification for the use of force, use of force in the defense of others, and the statutory authorization for the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers to effect an arrest.

At any time during the proceedings, the grand jury may instruct the district attorney to create a new bill of indictment, which must be subsequently provided to the officer. During deliberation, no individual other than grand jury members or needed interpreters may be present.

**Authored By:** Rep. Rich Golick (40th)**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 943 Contracts; additional limitations on indemnification and duty to defeat clauses which are void and enforceable in contracts for engineering or architectural services; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 943 addresses the use of indemnification clauses in contracts that force architects, engineers, or land surveyors to indemnify other parties when there is no fault by the engineer, architect, or land surveyor. It codifies case law and prohibits parties in construction contracts from having to indemnify another party within said contract for that third parties' negligence.

**Authored By:** Rep. Carl Rogers (29th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 949 Crimes and offenses; illegal use of financial transaction cards; revise provisions**

Bill Summary: HB 949 adds locally-elected constitutional officials to the list of individuals regulated in the Code regarding the illegal use of financial transaction cards.

**Authored By:** Rep. Alan Powell (32nd)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 952 "Georgia Professional Regulation Reform Act"; enact**

Bill Summary: A Bill relating professions and businesses, so as to enact the "Georgia Professional Regulation Reform Act"; to provide for executive oversight of licensing boards to establish state policy for the regulation of certain professions and businesses. The Governor shall have the authority and duty to actively supervise the professional licensing boards of this state to ensure that their actions are consistent with clearly articulated state policy.

It is the policy of the State of Georgia to increase economic opportunities for all of its citizens by promoting competition and thereby encouraging innovation and job growth. It is therefore also the policy of the State of Georgia to displace competition only when necessary to protect consumers from present, significant, and substantiated harms that threaten public health and safety. By establishing the policies and procedures of this chapter, the General Assembly intends to ensure that the state's professional licensing boards and board members are entitled to antitrust immunity and that state laws relating to professions and businesses are interpreted and enforced in a manner consistent with clearly articulated state policy.

**Authored By:** Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 954 "Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act"; enact**

Bill Summary: HB 954 establishes the 'Uniform Adult Guardianship and Conservatorship Proceedings Jurisdiction Act.' Under the provisions of this bill, when an individual is involved in guardianship proceedings and conservatorship proceedings, courts in Georgia can compel courts in other states to facilitate the process of transferring guardianship or conservatorship. Additionally, this bill enhances interstate recognition and enforcement of guardianship orders. Finally, this bill enables courts in Georgia and courts in other states to communicate, maintain records, and respond to requests for assistance.

**Authored By:** Rep. Chuck Efstoration (104th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 959 Education; K-12; update and clarify certain provisions**

Bill Summary: House Bill 959 revises sections of Title 20.

Section 1 clarifies local board of education members ability to speak with constituents, conduct town hall meetings, or discuss non-confidential matters with the media.

Section 2 amends Code Section 20-2-149.2 to allow for any industry and job related skills designated by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to count as a completion credit towards attainment of a high school diploma.

Section 3 revises Code Section 20-2-157 stating a diploma received under Code Section 20-2-149.2 meets all the rigor requirements to be eligible for the HOPE scholarship.

Section 4 revises Code Section 20-2-161.2 by striking "and its charter" from language concerning a college and career academy under work based learning programs.

Section 5 updates Move on When Ready provisions by striking "ninth and tenth grade level" and simply requiring high school courses instead of ninth or tenth grade level high school courses to meet the course requirement. This section also amends Code Section 20-2-161.3 to allow for any industry and job related skills designated by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia within a Move on When Ready program to receive credit towards attainment of a high school diploma.

Section 6 revises Code Section 20-2-210 relating to annual performance evaluation data. The data may be collected in a state-wide comprehensive educational information system for the purpose of evaluating education programs and improving educator preparation as long as no personally identifiable information is disseminated.

Section 7 amends Code Section 20-2-281 relating to end of course assessments. A student who receives an A, B, or C in a dual credit course, earns a 3 or above on advanced placement examinations, or earns a 4 or above on international baccalaureate exams may exempt their end of course assessment. If a student exempts their end of course assessment under this provision the student's score will not be included in the student's final grade.

Section 8 creates a new Code section titled "Educating Children of Military Families Act". This section allows the Department of Education to establish a unique identifier for each student whose parent or guardian is active duty military or reservist in order to disaggregate data relating to military students.

Section 9 updates the BRIDGE Act definitions relative to a college and career academy. In addition to being established by a charter school, a college and career academy can be created through a strategic waivers school system or a charter system.

Section 10 amends Code Section 20-4-37 requiring training for the governing board of a college and career academy, including, but not limited to, best practices, constitutional and statutory requirements, and applicable statutes, rules, and regulations. This section also updated terminology relating to strategic waivers school systems or charter systems.

Section 11 revises provisions relating to the Office of Student Achievement regarding non-profit corporations' prohibition from purchasing, condemning, or exchanging real property but specifies that they may receive and accept real property as a gift, devise, or court order. This section requires such gift, devise, or court order property be liquidated within a reasonable time and not held, used, or maintained.

**Authored By:** Rep. Beth Beskin (54th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** (*A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.*)

## **HB 960 Tax and revenue; confidentiality of certain tax information; provisions**

**Bill Summary:** This legislation provides for a mechanism by which political subdivisions, such as local governments and school boards, can satisfy refunds owed to taxpayers as a result of sales and use tax overpayments.



The bill changes the 12 percent annual interest rate to the prime rate plus three percent. It provides for an automatic notification with the limited provision of relevant information to effected political subdivisions if a refund has been requested equal to 10 percent of the aggregate sales and use tax collections based on an average of the three previous calendar years, and for confidentiality of any such information furnished. It requires that the taxpayer electronically submit refund information to the Department of Revenue at the time of the filing of the refund. HB 960 provides for an examination of the methodology used by the Department of Revenue in any audit by the Department of Audits and Accounts to ensure that the refund audit was satisfactory.

It changes penalties for failing to repay from 10 percent to an initial five percent within 120 days, with an additional five percent penalty assessed every 120 days thereafter and a cap of 20 percent on aggregate. It provides for the automatic transfer of any refund to the Georgia Tax Tribunal if the refund has been pending with the Department of Revenue for over two years for an interlocutory order to determine if the taxpayer, the department, or no party was at fault for the delay. If one of the parties is found to be at fault, that party is required to pay the interest accrued, and in all cases the matter would be remanded back to the department for completion.

This legislation also adds to the confidentiality language in O.C.G.A. Section 48-2-15, relating to the disclosure of confidential information, to allow the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees to access non-taxpayer identifying information.

**Authored By:** Rep. Trey Kelley (16th)

**Rule Applied:** Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended by the House sent this bill back to the Senate for consideration)*

#### **HB 976 State records management; minimum retention periods for video recordings from law enforcement devices on or inside a vehicle; provide**

**Bill Summary:** HB 976 establishes retention periods for video recordings captured by law enforcement through surveillance devices, body-worn devices, or devices on or inside a law enforcement vehicle. Recordings from surveillance devices shall be retained for 30 days from the date of such recording. Recordings from body-worn devices or devices located on or inside law enforcement vehicles shall be retained for 180 days from the date of such recording.

If the recordings are part of a criminal investigation, show a vehicular accident, the arrest or detainment of an individual, or the officer's use of force, the recording shall be retained for 30 months. If the recording contains evidence anticipated to be necessary in pending litigation, it will be retained for 30 months. This new Code section does not require the destruction of such video recordings after the retention period. Any open records request for such videos would be subject to a \$10 fee.

**Authored By:** Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

#### **HB 987 Ad valorem tax; property; change certain definitions**

**Bill Summary:** This legislation allows all or part of a property that is subject to conservation use restrictions to be used to host a non-profit rodeo event to which admission is charged in an amount that, on aggregate, does not exceed the cost of hosting the event.

The bill also provides that a property subject to a covenant for bona fide conservation use, if transferred and used as a single-family residence, must be occupied within 24 months from the move-in date by a relative within the fourth degree of civil reckoning.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tom McCall (33rd)

**Rule Applied:** Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

#### **HB 1004 Courts; maps, plats, and plans to be filed for record; provide requirements**

**Bill Summary:** HB 1004 provides requirements for maps, plats, and plans to be filed for record with

the clerk of the court. Each map or plat page image shall have a caption providing information, such as: the county where the property lies; the names of all property owners; name of subdivision; contact information for the land surveyor; a certificate from the land surveyor that the plan meets the current specifications for filing with the clerk of the court, and other information. The image attached in the filing information box has been changed from being not less than an eight and one-half inch square to not less than a three-inch square. Further, the bill provides that all images of maps, plats, or plans shall be an electronic image certified and presented to the clerk in conformance with all specifications set forth in any rules and regulations promulgated by the Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority. The clerk shall electronically note information, such as: the filing date, book, and pages numbers on the image and shall transmit a copy of the map, plat, or plan with such filing information to the email address of the person filing. The bill also provides a form for surveyor certification.

**Authored By:** Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 1025 Courts; service of accusations of or citations for violations of ordinances under certain circumstances; change provisions**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 1025 amends provisions relating to violations of county and state ordinances. Notice requirements have been added to current law for serving these violations. Service requirements consist of leaving a copy of the citation at the premises where the alleged violation occurred, mailing a copy to the owner, and filing a copy with the magistrate court. If the accused fails to appear for the court hearing after notice was given following these steps, a judgment will be issued against the accused and a penalty will be assessed.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tom Taylor (79th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 1030 Georgia Seed Development Commission; change certain provisions**

**Bill Summary:** HB 1030 refines the Georgia Seed Development Commission Board by updating the definition of a "licensee" member to "the holder of a license authorizing the propagation and marketing of seed, turfgrass, or horticultural plants developed by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Science of the University of Georgia" member. In addition, it makes the associate dean for research of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences of the University of Georgia a non-voting participant and adds another licensee as a non-voting member.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sam Watson (172nd)      **Rule Applied:** Open  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 1043 Vaccine protocol agreements; influenza; exempt activities conducted by a hospital or health system from certain requirements**

**Bill Summary:** HB 1043 requires a pharmacist or nurse to take an appropriate case history, as opposed to a complete case history, before administering the influenza vaccine. Additionally, under the provisions of this bill, hospitals and health systems that administer the influenza vaccine are exempt from certain requirements under O.C.G.A 43-34-26.1, as long as the following conditions are met: (1) the vaccine recipient signs and dates a consent form; (2) if the vaccine recipient is a patient within the hospital or health system, the administration of the influenza should be noted in the patient's health record; (3) if the vaccine recipient is not a patient within the hospital system, the hospital or health system must issue a personal immunization card to the patient, and (4) if requested by the patient, the influenza vaccine must be administered behind a portable screen.

**Authored By:** Rep. Trey Kelley (16th)      **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 1060 Crimes and offenses; carrying and possession of firearms; confirm that the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 1060 amends Titles 10 and 16 of Georgia Code. The amendment to Title 10 is known as the 'Georgia Firearms Industry Nondiscrimination Act', which prohibits any person, unless otherwise precluded by law or regulation, to refuse to provide financial services of any kind to, to refrain from continuing to provide existing financial services to, or to terminate existing services with, or to otherwise discriminate in the provision of financial services against a person or trade association solely because such person or association is engaged in lawful commerce of firearms or ammunition products. The bill also includes several other provisions which clean up the firearms Code in Title 16. The bill provides for new Georgia residents who have a carry license issued by a state which recognizes Georgia licenses to have 90 days in order to get their Georgia license. The bill states that persons who have a valid hunting or fishing license are not required to have on their person a carry license when they are engaged in legal hunting, fishing, or sport shooting on recreational or wildlife management areas owned by the state. This legislation allows a person who leaves a place of worship upon notification that firearms are prohibited to avoid being cited as violating the Code. The bill also allows probate judges receiving applications for permits, to issue printed information on firearms safety courses. The bill also goes on to require the Department of Natural Resources to provide on their principal website, information on hunter education and classes and courses in this state that render gun safety instruction. Another provision of the bill adds to the exemption for retired law enforcement carry privileges to include officers who are citizens of this state and have an aggregate of ten years in law enforcement with arrest powers, separated from service in good standing, and have an identification card for retired law enforcement. The bill clarifies definitions for "commercial service airport" and "major airline carrier" as it applies to those who carry a weapon into a commercial airport. Finally, the legislation provides immunity from civil liability from injuries caused by the failure of a person to use a firearm properly or lawfully to those instructors who provide safety training.

**Authored By:** Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 1070 Domestic relations; adoption; permit the department to use certain information in the records concerning the adopted child's biological parents**

**Bill Summary:** HB 1070 amends the Code relating to adoption to permit the Department of Human Services to use certain information in the department's records. Under this bill, the department or the department's designee, such as the Office of Adoptions, may make use of any information contained in the department's records concerning an adopted child and the adopted child's biological parents in connection with the placement of another child in the adoptive parent's home or in connection with an investigation of abuse or neglect made concerning the adoptive child's biological parents.

**Authored By:** Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HB 1115 DeKalb County; Magistrate Court; provisions**

**Bill Summary:** A Bill to make provisions for the Magistrate Court of DeKalb County, so as to allow for service of a citation for or accusation of a violation of an ordinance concerning the condition of real property.

**Authored By:** Rep. Michelle Henson (86th)

**Rule Applied:**

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

**HR 1052 Thomas William Poole Memorial Bridge; Schley County; dedicate**

**Bill Summary:** House Resolution 1052 is the annual House road and bridge dedication package. The substitute includes the House resolutions below:

House Resolution 1052 dedicates the bridge on U.S. Highway 19 North over Buck Creek in Schley County is dedicated as the Thomas William Poole Memorial Bridge.

The substitute also includes:

**Part I**

Senate Resolution 926 dedicates the intersection of SR 53 and McEver Road in Hall County as the Corporal Matthew Brittin Phillips Memorial Intersection. (Butch Miller);

**Part II**

Senate Resolution 929 dedicates the intersection of Highway 20 and Market Place Boulevard in Forsyth County as the Sergeant David Paul "Bubba" Land Memorial Intersection. (Michael Williams);

**Part III**

Senate Resolution 941 dedicates the bridge on State Route 42/Briarcliff Road over the south fork of Peachtree Creek in DeKalb County as the Ambassador David Adelman Bridge. (Elena Parent);

**Part IV**

Senate Resolution 952 dedicates the intersection of State Route 306 and State Route 369 in Forsyth County as Hammond's Crossing. (Michael Williams);

**Part V**

Senate Resolution 953 dedicates the intersection of Highway 9 and Highway 369 in Forsyth County as the Coal Mountain Intersection. (Michael Williams);

**Part VI**

Senate Resolution 961 dedicates the bridge on Interstate 85 over Cleveland Avenue in Fulton County as the Spencer Pass Memorial Bridge. (Nan Orrock);

**Part VII**

Senate Resolution 989 dedicates the bridge on Interstate 20 over Snapfinger Creek in DeKalb County as the Robert Shane Wilson Memorial Bridge. (Steve Henson);

**Part VIII**

Senate Resolution 1036 dedicates the bridge on Highway 17/State Route 75 over Cynth Creek in Towns County as the Dyer Bridge. (John Wilkinson);

**Part IX**

Senate Resolution 1041 dedicates State Route 140 in Bartow County as the Reverend Kenneth H. Coomer, Jr., Highway. (Bruce Thompson);

**Part X**

Senate Resolution 1057 dedicates the portion of Interstate 575 from Bells Ferry Road to the Cherokee County line in Cobb as the Lance Corporal Skip Wells Memorial Highway. (Judson Hill);

**Part XI**

Senate Resolution 1062 dedicates the portion of U.S. Highway 22/State Route 31 from the intersection of State Route 11 and State Route 31 in Lakeland to the intersection of State Route 7 and State Route 31 in Valdosta in Lowndes County as the James Slaton "Jay" Shaw Memorial Highway. (Ellis Black);

**Part XII**

Senate Resolution 1086 dedicates the portion of State Route 141/Medlock Bridge Road from the southern limit of Johns Creek at the Chattahoochee River to the intersection with State Route 120/Abbotts Bridge Road in Fulton County as the Mark Burkhalter Highway. (Brandon Beach);

**PART XIII**

House Resolution 1052 dedicates the bridge on U.S. Highway 19 North over Buck Creek in Schley County is dedicated as the Thomas William Poole Memorial Bridge. (Mike Cheokas);

**PART XIV**

House Resolution 650 dedicates the bridge on US 441/SR 15 over Interstate 85 in Banks County as

the Richard Chambers Bridge. (Rep. Dan Gasaway);

PART XV

House Resolution 853 dedicates the bridge on State Route 127 over the Flint River Overflow, 3 miles west of Marshallville in Macon County, is dedicated as the Dr. Delores Felder Memorial Bridge. (Rep. Patty Bentley);

PART XVI

House Resolution 854 dedicates the bridge on State Route 26 over the Flint River Overflow in Macon County is dedicated as the William Brown Bridge. (Rep. Patty Bentley);

PART XVII

House Resolution 970 dedicates the bridge over Raccoon Creek on Georgia Highway 133 west of Cartersville in Bartow County is dedicated as the Solomon T. "Sol" Dover Memorial Bridge. (Rep. Paul Battles);

PART XVIII

House Resolution 977 dedicates the bridge on U.S. 29 over the Savannah River in Hart County is dedicated as the Louie Morris Memorial Bridge. (Rep. Alan Powell);

PART XIX

House Resolution 1032 dedicates the bridge on Highway 92 North over the Chattahoochee River in Fulton County as the Robert and Ardena Beasley Memorial Bridge. (Sharon Beasley-Teague);

PART XX

House Resolution 1249 dedicates the intersection of State Route 125/Bemiss Road/Valdosta Ray City Highway and State Route 122 at the meeting point of Lowndes, Berrien, and Lanier counties as Walker's Crossing in memory of Mr. William "Mr. Bill" and Ruby Herndon Walker. (Penny Houston);

PART XXI

House Resolution 1250 dedicates the portion of State Route 125 from the intersection of CR 354/Alapaha Lenox Road to the intersection at West Marion Avenue and Tifton Road at State Route 122 in Berrien County as the Veterans Memorial Parkway. (Penny Houston);

PART XXII

House Resolution 1251 dedicates the bridge on State Route 37/76 over Bear Creek in Cook County as the Joel Jackson Parrish Bridge. (Penny Houston);

PART XXIII

House Resolution 1327 dedicates State Route 520 from Chattahoochee County through Dougherty County, including Stewart, Webster, Terrell, and Lee counties, as the Purple Heart Highway. (Gerald Greene);

PART XXIV

House Resolution 1431 dedicates the bridge over the Norfolk Southern rail lines/North and South Berry Streets on State Route 42 in Henry County as the Martin Luther King, Sr., Memorial Bridge. (Andy Welch);

PART XXV

House Resolution 1457 dedicates the bridge on Highway 129 over Lake Lanier is dedicated as the Longstreet Bridge. (Carl Rogers);

PART XXVI

House Resolution 1461 dedicates the intersection of Highway 257 and the Highway 441 Bypass in Laurens County as the TSGT Mack Fitzgerald Intersection. (Matt Hatchett);

PART XXVII

House Resolution 1462 dedicates the intersection of State Route 20/Canton Highway and Roving Road/Smith Cline Road in Bartow County as the Reverend Joe E. Edwards Intersection. (Christian Coomer);

PART XXVIII

AMENDMENT to 2015's SR 126;

PART XXIX

House Resolution 1459 dedicates the bridge on Riverside Drive over Interstate 75 in Bibb County as the Mayor Lee Robinson Memorial Bridge. (Allen Peake);

PART XXX

House Resolution 1400 dedicates the bridge on Highway 112 over Interstate 16 in Wilkinson County is dedicated as the Steven Charles Brack Memorial Bridge. (Bubber Epps);

PART XXXI

House Resolution 1508 dedicates the portion of State Route 93 from State Route 112 in the community of Lester to State Route 300 in Baconton in Mitchell County as the Harvey J. Morey Memorial Highway. (Jay Powell);

PART XXXII

House Resolution 1512 dedicates the interchange at Georgia 400 and U.S. 19 in Sandy Springs as the Mayor Eva Cohn Galambos Memorial Interchange. (Wendell Willard);

PART XXXIII

House Resolution 1523 A RESOLUTION honoring the life of Sergeant First Class Ray F. Lents and dedicating an intersection in his memory; and for other purposes. (Speaker Ralston);

PART XXXIV

House Resolution 1524 A RESOLUTION honoring the life of Mayor Barbara Stephens and dedicating a road in her memory; and for other purposes. (Speaker Ralston);

PART XXXV

House Resolution 1525 A RESOLUTION honoring the life of Mr. Roy L. Chapman and dedicating an intersection in his memory; and for other purposes. (Speaker Ralston);

PART XXXVI

House Resolution 1429 dedicates the portion of State Route 59 from the intersection with State Route 17 to Highway 164/Bold Springs Road in Franklin County as the Billy Dilworth Memorial Highway. (Alan Powell);

Lines 824-825: AMENDMENT to 2015's HR 36; and

Lines 826-827: AMENDMENT to 2015's HR 126.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th)

**Rule Applied:** Structured

**Motions to Agree:** (*A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.*)

**SB 270 Firearms; authorize qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry handgun anywhere within this state**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 270 provides a penalty for a person who commits the offense of transmitting a false public alarm when he or she knowingly transmits a report or warning while knowing there is no reasonable grounds for believing the report when the report relates to a destructive device or hazardous substance; or an individual who has caused or threatened to cause physical harm to himself or someone else. The penalty for this violation is a misdemeanor on the first offense and a felony upon the second, unless the location of the violation is critical infrastructure in which case the person is guilty of a felony.

The legislation allows the chief of staff to the commissioner of the Department of Corrections to issue a warrant for the arrest of an offender who has escaped from the custody of the department.

Under this legislation, an employee leaving the service of the board under honorable conditions who has accumulated 20 years or more of service with board, or 20 or more years of combined service as a parole officer, a probation officer or supervisor with the Department of Corrections, or a community supervision officer with the department may retain his or her board issued weapon and badge. When a parole officer leaves the employment of the board as a result of disability arising in the line of duty, he is entitled as part of his compensation to retain his or weapon and badge in accordance with the board's rules and regulations. Should a parole officer be killed in the line of duty his board issued badge is eligible to be given to a surviving family member.

The application fee for an adult offender applying to transfer his or her supervision from Georgia to any other state or territory is increased from \$25 to \$100.

This legislation also makes it unlawful for any individual, with the intent to secure a tangible benefit for him or herself, to make a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation that such individual is a military veteran or the recipient of a military decoration. Moreover, it is unlawful for any individual, with the intent to deceive, to appear in court while wearing a military uniform or military decoration. The penalty for this offense is punished as a misdemeanor, but if a military decoration is involved in the violation, the punishment is a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

**Authored By:** Sen. P. K. Martin (9th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

#### **SB 304 Criminal Records; allow for the preservation of a person's involuntary hospitalization information received by Georgia Crime Information**

**Bill Summary:** SB 304 outlines requirements for recording and reporting evidence collected during a forensic medical evaluation for investigations of rape or aggravated sodomy. Law enforcement officers collecting such evidence are required to provide notification to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's division of forensic sciences (the division). The bill also requires law enforcement to submit the evidence within 30 days and follow the procedures of the division, regardless of whether the evidence will be tested.

In addition, every law enforcement agency in the state is required to create a list of evidence resulting from any forensic medical evaluation during an investigation of rape or aggravated sodomy in the agency's possession on July 1, 2016. The list must be submitted to the division by September 16, 2016 and must identify whether the listed evidence should be tested or stored. Evidence on the list must be transferred to the division no later than November 16, 2016.

SB 304 requires the division to issue an annual report detailing the number of rape and aggravated sodomy cases for which the division has tested or stored in evidence. The division is required to submit this annual report to the speaker of the House of Representatives, the lieutenant governor, the House Committee on Judiciary, the House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil, and the Senate Judiciary Non-civil Committee.

**Authored By:** Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

#### **SB 307 Public Roads; provide for definitions relative to advertising**

**Bill Summary:** SB 307 allows for multimedia messages at bus shelters. These messages are authorized as long as they comply with existing operational standards for multiple message signs; however, these messages will not be required to comply with spacing standards set in the same Code section.

**Authored By:** Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Agree:** (A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)

**SB 423 Newton County; reestablish the board of commissioners; supersede the laws pertaining to governing authority of Newton County**

**Bill Summary:** A Bill to reestablish the Board of Commissioners of Newton County and to supersede the laws pertaining to the governing authority of Newton County.

**Authored By:** Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th) **Rule Applied:**  
**Motions to Agree:** (A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)

## Rules Calendar

**HR 1093 Joint Study Committee on Mental Illness Initiative, Reform, Public Health, and Safety; create**

**Bill Summary:** HR 1093 creates the House Study Committee on Mental Illness to study and take into consideration efforts in treating and supporting mentally ill individuals, community-based housing, residential mental health facilities and other infrastructures.

**Authored By:** Rep. Kimberly Alexander (66th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**House Committee:** Special Rules **Committee Action:** 03-23-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 140 Nays: 18 **Amendments:**

**HR 1577 House Study Committee on Georgia Minority Participation in the Film and Television Production Industry; create**

**Bill Summary:** HR 1577 creates the House Study Committee on Georgia Minority Participation in the Film and Television Production Industry to study if there are ways to remove any barriers that might exist that keep minorities from participating in the film and television production industry.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mable Thomas (56th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**House Committee:** Special Rules **Committee Action:** 03-23-2016 Do Pass  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 123 Nays: 33 **Amendments:**

**HR 1605 House Study Committee on Regional Transit Solutions; create**

**Bill Summary:** HR 1605 creates the House Study Committee on Regional Transit Solutions to study regional transit solutions, comprehensive regional transit plans, and other issues related to regional traffic problems.

**Authored By:** Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**House Committee:** Special Rules **Committee Action:** 03-23-2016 Do Pass  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 149 Nays: 9 **Amendments:**

**SB 145 Board of Community Health; provide that one member of the board is member of the state health benefit plan**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 145 allows for manufacturers of low tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) oil to ship low THC oil to a person properly registered with the Department of Public Health in Georgia. It expands the list of conditions for which low THC oil can be administered by including autism, epidermolysis bullosa, HIV, peripheral neuropathy, tourette's syndrome, terminal illness, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Moreover, SB 145 includes low THC oil into the code regarding driving under the influence.

**Authored By:** Sen. Joshua McKoon (29th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs **Committee Action:** 03-16-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute



Floor Vote: Yeas: 157 Nays: 7

Amendments:

**SB 199 Elections; provide for a definition; prohibit certain activities within close proximity to polling places**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 199 establishes a definition for "campaign material" and prevents it from being distributed or displayed within the area of a voting precinct restricted from campaigning activities. Campaign material is defined as any newspaper, booklet, pamphlet, card, sign, paraphernalia, or any other written or printed matter referring to a candidate whose name appears on the ballot in a primary or election; a referendum which appears on the ballot in a primary or election, or a political party or body which has a nominee or nominees on the ballot in a primary or election.

SB 199 provides for the reopening of qualifications in municipal elections if someone fails to qualify during the regular qualifying period. Under current law, it would require the calling of a special election. It allows local governments, by local act of the General Assembly, to establish residency requirements for qualification purposes of local elections and it further provides that if the required second Saturday early voting date falls on a holiday, the voting will occur on the following Saturday.

Finally, SB 199 provides that state employees who testify before committees of the General Assembly are not to be considered lobbyists.

**Authored By:** Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-16-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Floor Vote: Yeas: 167 Nays: 2

Amendments:

**SB 255 Garnishment Proceedings; modernize, reorganize, and provide constitutional protections**

**Bill Summary:** SB 255 enacts a new chapter outlining procedures, deadlines and constitutional protections in conducting garnishment proceedings. The bill requires judgment debtors to be notified that there are certain exemptions under state and federal law that the debtor may be entitled to claim with respect to the garnished property, as well as the procedures to claim the exemptions. The bill stipulates that the garnishment period, the time during which the garnishee shall freeze funds to be submitted to the court with the garnishee's answer, begins on the day of service of the summons. The total garnishment period for a continuing garnishment is 180 days; a financial institution garnishment (other than a continuing garnishment or continuing garnishment for support) is six days; a continuing garnishment for support lasts as long as the defendant is employed by the garnishee and the original arrearage is retired; and all other garnishments for 30 days. Additionally, standardized forms are provided. The forms contained in this article for the summons of garnishment, garnishee's answer, defendant's claim, and the like for continuing garnishments and garnishments on financial institutions are required to be used, unless the party uses its own format which contains all of the same information.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Floor Vote: Yeas: 174 Nays: 1

Amendments:

**SB 304 Criminal Records; allow for the preservation of a person's involuntary hospitalization information received by Georgia Crime Information**

**Bill Summary:** SB 304 outlines requirements for recording and reporting evidence collected during a forensic medical evaluation for investigations of rape or aggravated sodomy. Law enforcement officers collecting such evidence are required to provide notification to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's division of forensic sciences (the division). The bill also requires law enforcement to submit the evidence within 30 days and follow the procedures of the division, regardless of whether the evidence will be tested.

In addition, every law enforcement agency in the state is required to create a list of evidence resulting from any forensic medical evaluation during an investigation of rape or aggravated sodomy in the

agency's possession on July 1, 2016. The list must be submitted to the division by September 16, 2016 and must identify whether the listed evidence should be tested or stored. Evidence on the list must be transferred to the division no later than November 16, 2016.

SB 304 requires the division to issue an annual report detailing the number of rape and aggravated sodomy cases for which the division has tested or stored in evidence. The division is required to submit this annual report to the speaker of the House of Representatives, the lieutenant governor, the House Committee on Judiciary, the House Committee on Judiciary Non-Civil, and the Senate Judiciary Non-civil Committee.

**Authored By:** Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-22-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Amendments:**

### **SB 319 Professional Counseling; revise the definition**

**Bill Summary:** SB 319 clarifies and allows for professional counselors, clinical social workers, or marriage and family therapists to diagnose emotional and mental problems or conditions. In addition, the bill requires the board which governs those groups to develop curriculum of continuing education for licensed practitioners relating to diagnosing individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse, and the board shall retain its full authority to determine education, experience, and training required of its licensees. Moreover, SB 319 clarifies psychological testing, and that performing such psychological testing is only within the scope of practice of psychologists.

**Authored By:** Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
**House Committee:** Regulated Industries  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 145 Nays: 26

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-16-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Amendments:** AM 33 1644

### **SB 355 "Student/Teacher Protection Act"; enact; end punitive testing consequences; related to federal, state, and locally mandated standardized assessments**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 355, the 'Student Protection Act,' allows students with a doctor's note for illness, life-threatening sickness, or a therapist's order to be excused from standardized testing. This legislation also allows the State Board of Education or the local school system to provide standardized tests in paper and pencil format if requested. The bill directs the State School Superintendent to develop policies for how non-participating students will be evaluated.

**Authored By:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
**House Committee:** Education  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 162 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-11-2016 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

### **SB 356 Animals; provide definition of term "owner"; impoundment of animals for any violation; caring for an impounded animal**

**Bill Summary:** SB 356 amends Title 4, relating to animals, to: provide a definition for the term "owner"; provide for impoundment and the caring of an impounded animal; modify provisions for getting an impounded animal back to its owner; dispose of an impounded animal, and create a process for petition to recoup expenses of impoundment.

Additionally, any person providing care for the impounded animal shall have a lien on the animal and the lien may be foreclosed on in the magistrate courts of proper jurisdiction. Under this bill, any person impounding the animal shall be authorized to return the animal to the owner once all fees and costs have been paid, unless the owner has been convicted of dog fighting or animal cruelty.

The government agency in custody of an impounded animal may dispose of the animal when the animal is not permitted to be returned to the owner or when the owner relinquishes ownership. Additionally, an agency impounding one or more animals for cruelty to animals or dogfighting may

petition the court to hear civil cases requesting that the owner of the animal pay the costs of keeping the animal to the registry or court. Further, this bill provides a schedule and process for notifying the owner and the court of the proceedings related to the impounding of the animal and all associated costs.

**Authored By:** Sen. Michael Williams (27th)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-10-2016 Do Pass

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 114 Nays: 59

**Amendments:**

**SB 379 Sales and Use Tax; provide for exemption for fire districts which have elected governing bodies and supported by ad valorem taxes**

**Bill Summary:** This legislation exempts fire districts that have elected government bodies and are supported in whole or in part by ad valorem taxes from sales and use taxes.

SB 379 also provides that if a property sold in a tax sale is redeemed by the original owner, the redemption price must include any payments that were required to be made by the tax sale purchaser to the property owners' association for the purchase of the property.

This bill also includes water and sewage authorities in the allocation and distribution of ad valorem motor vehicle taxes by county tag agents in counties in which a sales and use tax is levied to fund a metropolitan area system of public transportation.

The legislation also provides a sales and use tax exemption for job training organizations. A qualified organization must be located within the state; exempt from income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; specialize in the retail sale of donated items; provide job training and employment services to individuals with workplace disadvantages or disabilities (including reentry citizens and veterans); and use a majority of its revenues for job training and placement programs. The bill contains metrics to evaluate the benefit rendered to the state by the exemption.

**Authored By:** Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 156 Nays: 3

**Amendments:**

**SB 385 Physicians; provide for certain requirements for advertisement or publication of representation of board certification by physicians**

**Bill Summary:** SB 385 requires physicians to state the full name of their certifying board in any public advertisements, provided that such certifying board requires successful completion of a postgraduate training program and successful completion of any examination required for accreditation. Further, under the provisions of this bill, the Medical Composite Board of Georgia is authorized to take disciplinary action against any physician that violates this Code section.

**Authored By:** Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-14-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 164 Nays: 0

**Amendments:**

**SB 388 Bona Fide Coin Operated Amusement Machine; prohibit the removal of a sticker without authorization**

**Bill Summary:** SB 388 revises the Code regarding bona fide coin operated amusement machines. The bill allows for a Class A machine to distribute a non-cash redemption award on a per play basis not to exceed \$20. The gift certificate or gift card is an electronic payment device issued for a specific amount which: may not be increased in value or reloaded; is loaded on a prepaid basis; cannot be exchanged for cash, and is available for sale on the premises. The card is also permitted to be used for in-store redemption. Class A licenses can be renewed for \$125 and \$1,000 for a Class B license. Moreover, the bill provides that when a master licensee receives notice of a potential revocation of

said license, the master licensee shall be prohibited from selling or transferring that license to any other person. Removing or defacing a permit sticker located upon an amusement machine is a misdemeanor and a replacement sticker for each Class A machine is \$25 and \$125 for each Class B machines. In addition, the Georgia Lottery Corporation shall have jurisdiction relating in any way to coin operated amusement machines.

**Authored By:** Sen. David Lucas (26th)

**House Committee:** Regulated Industries

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 153 Nays: 15

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Committee Action:** 03-16-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Amendments:**

**SB 416 GBI; establish Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center; provide fusion center for sharing and analysis of homeland security activity information**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 416 establishes the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center within the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. This center will serve as a fusion center maintaining a terrorism analytical component. Development, maintenance, and operations of the center are vested in the director of the GBI. The director is required to report homeland security activity information to the director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA). The center will liaise with the FBI, Joint Terrorism Taskforce, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other local, state, and federal intelligence and law enforcement officials. Membership consists of the director of the GBI, the director of GEMA, the commissioner of Public Safety, the commissioner of Natural Resources, the commissioner of Corrections, the state fire marshal, the attorney general, the adjutant general and state and local fire service, law enforcement, homeland security, emergency management, corrections, and other appropriate agencies and disciplines as determined by the director of emergency management in consultation with the director.

**Authored By:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)

**House Committee:** Public Safety & Homeland Security

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 160 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Amendments:**

**SR 863 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge; Union County; dedicate**

**Bill Summary:** The annual Senate road/bridge dedication package includes the following dedications from the Senate and the House:

**PART I**

Senate Resolution 863 dedicates the bridge on Highway 129 over Ivy Log Creek in Blairsville as the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge." (Steve Gooch);

**PART II**

Senate Resolution 756 dedicates Highway 114 from Lyerly, Georgia to the Alabama State Line to Major General William "Bill" Gayler and Brigadier General John "Pete" P. Johnson. (Jeff Mullis);

**PART III**

Senate Resolution 847 dedicates the intersection of U.S. Highway 41 and Georgia Highway 151 in Catoosa County as the "L. Wesley Smith Memorial Intersection." (Jeff Mullis);

**PART IV**

Senate Resolution 849 dedicates US 278/Ponce de Leon Avenue from the intersection of Piedmont Avenue to the intersection of State Route 10/Freedom Parkway in Fulton County as the "Walt Frazier Highway." (Donzella James);

**PART V**

Senate Resolution 893 dedicates the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Highway 41 in Catoosa County as the "Private Lonnie S. Rhinehart Memorial Intersection." (Jeff Mullis);

**PART VI**

Senate Resolution 984 dedicates the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Lakeshore Drive in Catoosa County as the "U.S. Navy Petty Officer Randall Smith Memorial Intersection." (Jeff Mullis);

**PART VII**

Senate Resolution 1039 dedicates the intersection of Cove Road and Camp Road in Walker County as the "PFC Charles W. Bradshaw Memorial Intersection." (Jeff Mullis);

**PART VIII**

Senate Resolution 925 dedicates the bridge on State Route 8/State Route 10 over Lullwater Creek in DeKalb County as the "Michael Polak Bridge." (Steve Henson);

**PART IX**

Senate Resolution 956 dedicates the portion of Georgia 255 North from Georgia 17 to Covered Bridge Road, the portion of Georgia 17 from Joe Brown Pike Bridge to Helen Highway, and the portion of Helen Highway from Dukes Creek Crossing to 7300 Helen Highway in White County as the Sautee Nacoochee Arts and Heritage District. (Steve Gooch);

**PART X**

Senate Resolution 978 dedicates the intersection of U.S. 29/State Route 8/General Daniels Avenue and State Route 98/Comer Road in Madison County as the Sheriff Dewey G. Seagraves Intersection. (Frank Ginn);

**PART XI**

House Resolution 1399 dedicates the portion of State Route 17 from the intersection with Interstate 85 to the intersection with Interstate 985 in Stephens, Franklin, and Habersham counties as the Currahee Parkway. (Dan Gasaway);

**PART XII**

House Resolution 1430 dedicates the intersection of U.S. Highway 80/State Route 22 and Drane Matthews Road/George Smith Road in Talbot County as the Trooper Bobby Mathis Memorial Intersection. (Debbie Buckner);

**PART XIII**

House Resolution 1460 dedicates the portion of State Route 101 from the intersection with State Route 120/Buchanan Highway north to the Paulding County line as the Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church Highway. (Kimberly Alexander);

**PART XIV**

House Resolution 1486 dedicates the bridge on Interstate 75 at the University Avenue exit in Fulton County as the Lovett Stovall Bridge. (Valencia Stovall);

**PART XV**

House Resolution 1487 dedicates the portion of State Route 224 from the intersection with State Route 90/Spalding Road to the intersection with East Railroad Street in Macon County as the Walter M. Mathews, Jr., Memorial Highway. (Patty Bentley);

**PART XVI**

House Resolution 1526 dedicates the interchange at the State Route 40 and Interstate 95 exit in Camden County as the Colquitt George "C.G." Russell Memorial Interchange. (Jason Spencer);

**PART XVII**

House Resolution 1528 dedicates the bridge on Highway 79 over Fishing Creek in Lincoln County as the Jesse Rouse Memorial Bridge. (Tom McCall);

**PART XVIII**

House Resolution 1554 dedicates the portion of State Route 10/U.S.78 from the intersection of State Route 383 to the interchange of State Route 415 in Richmond County as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Parkway. (Barbara Sims);

**PART XIX**

House Resolution 1608 dedicates the portion of State Route 38 Connector/General Screven Way from U.S. Highway 84/State Route 38/State Route 196 to the gates of Fort Stewart Military Base in Liberty County as the Carl Dykes Memorial Way. (Al Williams);

**PART XX**

House Resolution 1655 dedicates the portion of U.S. Highway 84/State Route 38 from mile post 8.30 to mile post 8.55 in Liberty County as McLarry's Curve. (Al Williams);

**PART XXI**

House Resolution 1680 dedicates the portion of U.S. Highway 22/State Route 31 from the intersection of State Route 11 and State Route 31 in Lakeland to the intersection of State Route 7 and State Route 31 in Valdosta in Lowndes County as the James Slaton "Jay" Shaw Memorial Highway. (Amy Carter);

**PART XXII**

House Resolution 1683 dedicates the bridge on State Route 135/S. Peterson Street at the Alapaha River Overflow, 3 miles south of Willacoochee, Georgia, at mile 0.27 in Atkinson County is dedicated as the Robert Keith Futch Memorial Bridge. (Jason Shaw);

**PART XXIII**

House Resolution 1685 dedicates the portion of U.S. 84/S.R. 38/Victory Drive in Waycross, Georgia, from the intersection with U.S. 1/U.S. 23/U.S. 82/U.S. 84/S.R. 4/S.R. 38/S.R. 52/S. Georgia Parkway to the intersection with Wadley Road and Glenmore Avenue in Ware County as the Dr. Robert T. Bussey Parkway. (Jason Shaw);

**PART XXIV**

House Resolution 1696 dedicates the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Lakeshore Drive in Catoosa County as the U.S. Navy Petty Officer Randall Smith Memorial Intersection. (Tom Weldon); and

**PART XXV**

House Resolution 1720 dedicates the portion of U.S. 441/U.S. 23/S.R. 15 from the southern city limits of Mountain City northward to the boundary line between Georgia and North Carolina as the Frank Cathey Memorial Highway. (Christian Coomer).

**Authored By:** Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)

**House Committee:** Transportation

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 166 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Committee Action:** 03-16-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Amendments:**

**SR 883 Incentives for Financial Technologies and the Payment Processing Industry; create joint study committee**

Bill Summary: SR 883 creates the Incentives for Financial Technologies and the Payment Processing Industry to ensure the state regulations involving the industry are properly balanced and if incentives should be offered to help the industry grow.

**Authored By:** Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)

**House Committee:** Special Rules

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 146 Nays: 4

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

**Committee Action:** 03-24-2016 Do Pass

**Amendments:**

**SR 892 Governor Sonny Perdue Highway; Dooley County; dedicate**

Bill Summary: SR 892 includes the following dedications:  
Senate Resolution 892 dedicates Interstate 75 in Houston County from the Peach County line to the Dooley County line as the Governor Sonny Perdue Highway. (Larry Walker, III);

House Resolution 1682 dedicates the bridge on GA 21/GA 421/GA 25/Interstate 516 at the intersection of State Route 25 and State Route 26 Connector/Burnsed Blvd. in Chatham County as the Bob Bryant Memorial Bridge. (Christian Coomer); and

House Resolution 1325 dedicates the portion of Highway 19 from Schley County mile marker 0 to Sumter County mile marker 15.7 and continuing to the northern city limits of Americus at mile marker 14 as the SFC Victor A. Anderson Memorial Highway. (Mike Cheokas)

**Authored By:** Sen. Larry Walker III (20th)

**House Committee:** Transportation

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 171 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Committee Action:** 03-16-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Amendments:** AM 39 0176

**SR 954 Public Property; granting of nonexclusive easements for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities, utilities, roads; 16 counties**

Bill Summary: SR 954 authorizes the granting of nonexclusive easements for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities, utilities, roads, and ingress and egress in, on, over, under, upon, across, or through property owned by the State of Georgia in the counties of Bartow, Bulloch, Carroll, Chatham, Columbia, Coweta, DeKalb, Emanuel, Gordon, Henry, Marion, Murray, Paulding, Sumter, Ware, and Whitfield.

Article 1 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 1.7 acres under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the new Natural Resources Building (TCSG-269) at Ogeechee Technical College in Bulloch County for \$10.

Article 2 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 3.256 acres under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve structures at University of Georgia at the Wormsloe Historic Site in Chatham County for \$10.

Article 3 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 0.1 of an acre under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve an outdoor electronic sign at Augusta Technical College in Columbia County for \$10.

Article 4 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 0.04 of an acre under the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the new facilities at Decatur Armory in Dekalb County for \$10.

Article 5 grants an easement to Excelsior Electrical Membership Corporation and assigns over approximately 0.16 of an acre under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of distribution lines and associated equipment to serve new Group Shelters at George L. Smith State Park in Emanuel County for \$10.

Article 6 grants an easement to the Georgia Department of Transportation and assigns over approximately 0.12 of an acre over Western and Atlantic Railroad property under the custody of the State Properties Commission for a road widening project and the construction and maintenance of a bridge on the South Calhoun Bypass from SR53 at CR13 East to SR53 at CR64 in Gordon County for \$10.

Article 7 grants an easement to Snapping Shoals Electrical Membership Corporation and assigns over approximately 1.51 acres under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated

equipment to serve the new Henry County Campus (TCSG-248) of Southern Crescent Technical College for \$10.

Article 8 grants an easement to Flint Electrical Membership Corporation (Flint Energies) and assigns over approximately 0.03 of an acre under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve a new building at Chattahoochee Fall Line Wildlife Management Area in Marion County for \$10.

Article 9 grants an easement to the Georgia Department of Transportation and assigns over approximately 0.25 of an acre under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction of storm water drainage system and road improvement project at South Georgia Technical College in Sumter County for \$7,000.

Article 10 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 0.3 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve six new cabins at Laura S. Walker State Park in Ware County for \$10.

Article 11 grants the following easements:

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.69 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Bartow County for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.33 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Carroll and Coweta Counties for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.22 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Gordon County for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.26 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Murray County for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 1.1 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Murray and Whitefield Counties for fair market value but not less than \$650; and

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) or its successors and assigns over approximately 10.47 acres under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Paulding County for fair market value but not less than \$650.



**House Committee:** State Properties  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 167 Nays: 0

**Committee Action:** 03-10-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Amendments:** AM40 0167

## Local Calendar

### **SB 430 Bartow County; change the cost-of-living adjustment for the commissioner's compensation**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the office of commissioner of Bartow County, so as to change the cost-of-living adjustment for the commissioner's compensation.

**Authored By:** Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 151 Nays: 5

**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-23-2016 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

### **SB 431 Cartersville, City of; authorize the governing authority; levy an excise tax; procedures, conditions, and limitations**

Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Cartersville to levy a hotel/motel tax.

**Authored By:** Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 151 Nays: 5

**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-23-2016 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

### **SB 432 Bartow County; authorize the governing authority; levy an excise tax; procedures, conditions, and limitations**

Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of Bartow County to levy a hotel/motel tax.

**Authored By:** Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 151 Nays: 5

**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-23-2016 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

### **SB 433 Emerson, City of; authorize the governing authority; levy an excise tax; procedures, conditions, and limitations**

Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Emerson to levy a hotel/motel tax.

**Authored By:** Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 151 Nays: 5

**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-23-2016 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

### **SB 434 Magistrate Court of Bartow County; cost-of-living adjustments; chief magistrate compensation; change provisions**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act providing for the compensation of the chief magistrate of the Magistrate Court of Bartow County, so as to change provisions relating to the cost-of-living adjustments to the compensation of the chief magistrate.

**Authored By:** Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 151 Nays: 5

**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-23-2016 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

**SB 435 Adairsville, City of; authorize the governing authority; levy an excise tax; procedures, conditions, and limitations**

Bill Summary: A Bill to authorize the governing authority of the City of Adairsville to levy a hotel/motel tax.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-23-2016 Do Pass
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 151 Nays: 5	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**SB 436 Bartow County; cost-living adjustments; clerk of superior court compensation; change provisions**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act placing certain of the county officers of Bartow County upon an annual salary, so as to change provisions relating to the cost-of-living adjustments to the compensation of the clerk of the superior court.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-23-2016 Do Pass
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 151 Nays: 5	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**SB 438 Telfair County; county officers; repeal the amendment of the Constitution of Georgia; ineligible to hold office under certain conditions**

Bill Summary: A Bill to repeal the amendment to the Constitution of Georgia providing that the county officers of Telfair County shall be ineligible to hold office under certain conditions.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-23-2016 Do Pass
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 151 Nays: 5	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**SB 439 City of Barwick; provide a new charter; incorporation, boundaries, powers and construction**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Barwick.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Ellis Black (8th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-23-2016 Do Pass
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 151 Nays: 5	<b>Amendments:</b>	

## Committee Actions

*Bills passing committees are reported to the Clerk's Office and are placed on the General Calendar.*

### Rules Committee

#### **HR 1326 University System of Georgia; increases in tuition or fees at institutions shall not exceed the rate of inflation; authorize General Assembly - CA**

Bill Summary: HR 1326 is a constitutional amendment which authorizes the General Assembly to pass a general bill which would limit tuition increases to the same percentage of an inflation increase.

**Authored By:** Rep. Matt Ramsey (72nd)

**House Committee:** Rules

**Committee Action:** 03-24-2016 Do Pass

### Special Rules Committee

#### **SR 883 Incentives for Financial Technologies and the Payment Processing Industry; create joint study committee**

Bill Summary: SR 883 creates the Incentives for Financial Technologies and the Payment Processing Industry to ensure the state regulations involving the industry are properly balanced and if incentives should be offered to help the industry grow.

**Authored By:** Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)

**House Committee:** Special Rules

**Committee Action:** 03-24-2016 Do Pass

